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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,583	01/29/2004	Fred Reed	706767US1	6180

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EXAMINER

LAO, LUN YI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/767,583	Applicant(s) REED ET AL.	
	Examiner LUN-YI LAO	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst in view of Ishiguro(6,176,589).

As to claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11 and 13, Hengst teaches a human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle functions(radio, map, navigation, etc.)(see figures 3-4 and column 4, lines 58-63), the interface comprising: a knob(1) which is bidirectionally rotatable(8, 9) at a rest level(central position or 10) and a pressed level; a selected one of the vehicle functions(e.g. navigation or radio) being selected by the knob(1) at the rest level(central position 3 or 10) (see figures 1-3; column 2, lines 10-17 and column 4, lines 58-64) and the selected one of the vehicle functions being controlled by the knob(1) at the pressed level(see figures 1-3; column 1, lines 49-53; column 3, lines 13-27 and column 4, lines 1-46).

Hengst fails to disclose a plurality of annunciators wherein one of the annunciators indicates the selected one of the vehicle functions when the knob is rotated at the reset level

Ishiguro teach a plurality of annunciators(e.g. 15a-15e, 25, 26)(see figure 2), wherein one of the annunciators indicates the selected one of the vehicle functions when the knob(1) is rotated at the reset level(see figures 1-3, 5-6; abstract; column 4, lines 1-29; column 5, lines 6-15 and lines 45-68; column 6; and column 7, lines 1-23). It would have been obvious to have modified Hengst with the teaching of Ishiguro, so as to provide a feedback to a user to indicate where rotational position of a knob(see abstract).

As to claims 7 and 13, Hengst teach a human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle functions(radio, map, navigation, etc.)(see figures 3-4 and column 4, lines 58-63); the interface comprising: a knob(1) which is bidirectionally rotatable at a first level and a second level(pressed level); a selected one of the vehicle functions(radio, map, navigation, etc.) being selected by the knob(1) at the first level; and the selected one of the vehicle functions being controlled by the knob at the second level(see figures 1-3; column 1, lines 49-53; column 3, lines 13-27 and column

As to claims 2 and 8, Hengst teaches vehicle functions is associated with a 4, lines 1-46). detent position(10) of the knob at the rest level(central position)(see figures 1-4 and column 4, lines 11-46).

As to claims 3 and 9, Hengst as modified teach at least one of the annunciators indicates the selected one of the vehicle functions when the selected one of the vehicle functions is controlled by rotating the knob at the press(push) level(see Ishiguro's figures 1-3, 5-6; column 5, lines 62-68; column 6, lines 1-7; Hengst's figures 3-4; column 4, lines 19-68 and column 5, lines 1-21).

As to claims 5 and 11, Hengst as modified teach at least one of the vehicle functions(e.g. defrosting mode, REC mode or air conditioner) is an on/off function, wherein the knob further comprises a switch(push switch) for controlling the on/off function and the switch includes an indicator reflective of the state of the on/off function(see Ishiguro's figures 1-3, 5-6; column 5, lines 62-68; column 6, lines 1-7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst in view of Ishiguro and Bollgohn et al(6,769,320).

As to claims 4 and 10, Hengst fails to disclose a display screen indicating a selection function.

Bollgohn et al an annunciator(48A-48D) or display screen(44) for indicating a selection function(e.g, CD2)(see figures 2-3; column 5, lines 55-64 and column 6, lines 5-33). It would have been obvious to have modified Hengst as modified with the teaching of Bollgohn et al, so as to provide a selection confirmation to a user and provide a feedback to a user(see Hengst's figures 3-4; column 4, lines 18-45 and column 5, lines 8-22).

5. Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst in view of Ishiguro and Goldenberg et al(6,636,197).

As to claims 6 and 12, Hengst as modified fails to disclose the selected functions having a fan speed and a temperature.

Goldenberg et al teach a knob(26) for selecting fan speed and temperature Functions(see figures 1-3; column 5, lines 57-68; column 7, lines 8-18 and column 22, lines 49-53). It would have been obvious to have modified Hengst as modified with the teaching of Goldenberg et al, so as to provide more controlling function to a user.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chung(6,337,469) teaches an input device having LCD sections(40) and LED sections(43).

Mugura et al(6,208,342) teach an input device having a bi-directional knob(28).

Will(6,392,640) teach an input device having knob.

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8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lun-yi Lao whose telephone number is 571-272-7671. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 2, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lun-yi Lao'.

Lun-yi Lao
Primary Examiner